



October 7, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch  
FCC/Commission Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW, CY-B402  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On behalf of the Contra Costa Council, I am writing to you to express our organization's strong support for SBC Pacific Bell's efforts to increase competition in the long distance phone service market.

The Contra Cost Council is a non-profit, public policy organization located in Contra Costa County. Our members included approximately 350 businesses and together they employ nearly 80,000 people in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. Contra Costa Council has had a long-term relationship with SBC Pacific Bell – the company has been a good, solid corporate citizen; it makes positive contributions to the state and our local economic efforts, and its employees are involved in the communities in which they live and work.

The Board of Directors of the Contra Costa Council closely examined the issues and voted to support SBC Pacific Bell's application for entry into the long distance market. The most decisive factor in our decision was quite simply, competition.

Overall, the Board felt that SBC Pacific Bell's entry into the long distance marketplace would have a positive impact on the business community by increasing competition. Healthy competition in any market results in better value for consumers.

The application process has been lengthy and comprehensive. The Contra Costa Council urges the FCC to act on SBC Pacific Bell's request, and vote in favor of further competition in the telecommunications marketplace.

We appreciate having had the opportunity to provide these comments to you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Jakel  
Executive Director

President  
Tomi Van de Brooke  
Partner  
StrategiComm

President Elect  
Angie Coffee  
Senior Vice President  
Greater Bay Bank

Vice President- Finance  
Michael Fenley  
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Jim Jakel